

State of Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence



## Energy Related Recovery Program Update #40

June 2010

### *Important Wisconsin News*



#### **Businesses Interested in Supplying Biomass**

An impressive 59 Wisconsin businesses responded to a Request for Information to supply biomass fuel for the Charter Street Heating Plant located in Madison. By fall of 2011, the Charter Street Heating Plant will stop burning coal and switch to a mixture of biomass, such as wood waste and agricultural residue. A Request for Proposal (RFP) is expected to be announced in August. [Story](#)

### *Funding Announcements*

#### **USDOE to Invest \$6 Million in Midsize Wind Turbine Technology Development**

The USDOE announced the availability of up to \$6 million to advance midsize wind turbine technology in order to boost the speed and scale of midsize turbine deployment. USDOE will provide the funding over two years to accelerate the development, testing, and commercialization of domestically manufactured, midsize wind turbines with rated generating capacities between 100 kilowatts and 1 megawatt. Through this funding opportunity, USDOE will leverage private-sector technology investment by providing cost-shared partnerships to qualified projects in support of the Administration's drive to create clean-energy jobs, and promote economic development and energy independence. USDOE anticipates making up to four initial grants under this competitive solicitation. [Full story](#)

#### **Funding Opportunities for Solid-State Lighting: Core Technology Research and Product Development (Round 7)**

The USDOE announced two Solid-State Lighting (SSL) funding opportunities on May 24, 2010. Under these funding opportunities, USDOE seeks applications for projects to advance research, development, and market adoption of SSL technology. The funding is directed toward two existing USDOE SSL R&D program areas for Core Technology Research and Product Development.

USDOE is soliciting SSL projects in the following categories:

- [Core technology](#) projects focus on applied research for technology development, with

particular emphasis on meeting efficiency, performance, and cost targets. Selected projects will fill technology gaps or provide enabling knowledge or data.

- [Product development](#) projects focus on using the knowledge gained from basic or applied research to develop or improve commercially viable materials, devices, or systems. Selected projects will develop targeted market applications with fully defined price, efficacy, and other performance parameters necessary for success of the proposed product.

## **Energy-Efficient Housing Research Partnerships Request for Proposals Available Now**

On behalf of the USDOE's Building America residential research program, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP). The purpose of this RFP is to select Building America research teams to develop cost-effective solutions that improve the quality and energy efficiency of new and existing U.S. homes. The deadline for submitting proposals under this RFP is June 21, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. Mountain Time. [Full story](#)

## **Ex-Im Bank Speeds Financing of Solar Exports for Small Projects**

The Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) unveiled on April 22 its new "Solar Express" initiative, which will provide streamlined financing for U.S. exports to small solar-energy projects. Under the new initiative, financing could be approved in as few as 60 days. The Solar Express loans will be available for small solar-power producers seeking financing of \$3 million to \$10 million. The initiative offers both direct loans and loan guarantees, and in most cases, the loan will be disbursed after completion of the project. The loans can include financing up to 30% of local costs, and repayment can be up to 18 years.

The Ex-Im Bank, an independent, self-sustaining federal government agency, exists to fill gaps in export financing, strengthen U.S. export competitiveness, and create and maintain U.S. jobs. [Full story](#)

## *Webinars and Training Tools*



### **USDOE Webinar June 22, 2010: Cost-Effective Triple Pane (R-5) and Low-e Storm Windows - Available Now**

The USDOE's Building Technologies Program is offering a webinar on Tuesday, June 22, 2010, from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. EST titled "Cost-Effective Triple Pane (R-5) and Low-e Storm Windows - Available Now." Windows in the United States account for 30% of building heating and cooling energy loss, and represent a key opportunity for improving the energy efficiency of buildings. This webinar will provide information about DOE's effort to bring affordable triple pane and low-e storm windows to the marketplace. Through the launch of a new DOE-sponsored volume purchase program, builders and distributors can buy these windows at a competitive price. [More information](#)

## **FERC Aims to Ease the Development of Small Hydropower Projects**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) took a step toward making its small hydropower licensing program more user-friendly by announcing a series of Web-based tools that will help developers understand the FERC licensing process and complete the license application process more quickly and efficiently. FERC took the action in response to an increase in the number of inquiries about small hydropower projects. In 2009, FERC received almost twice as many inquiries about small hydropower issues than in 2008, and the commission has also received more applications for these types of projects in recent years. [Full story](#)

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